

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a plurality of instant messaging client applications ~~{202, 207, 208, 209}~~ communicating via a computer network ~~{206}~~ to send and receive messages in real time integrated with n-way teleconferencing capability via a telephone network ~~{216}~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system comprises: a plurality of instant messaging client applications ~~{202, 207, 208, 209}~~; an instant messaging server ~~{204}~~; and a teleconferencing server ~~{210}~~; all connected via a computer network ~~{206}~~; wherein the teleconferencing server ~~{210}~~ enables n-way telephone connections via the telephone network ~~{216}~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the teleconference server ~~{210}~~ includes communication means to send notifications to the instant messaging server ~~{204}~~ of the status of telephone connections during a teleconference.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ in claim 1, wherein the instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ have graphical user interfaces ~~(400, 600)~~ including means for displaying in real time details of participants of an n-way teleconference and the status of the telephone connections of the participants.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the n-way telephone connections are to telephone apparatus of users of the instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein an additional telephone connection is to a telephone apparatus of a user ~~(611, 615)~~ who is not a user of an instant messaging client application.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface ~~(600)~~ includes means for indicating a participant who is talking ~~(608)~~ at a given time in the teleconference, the

means for indicating being activated in response to notification from the teleconference server ~~(210)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface ~~(600)~~ includes means for a user to input an indication ~~(610)~~ that the user wishes to speak

9. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 2 to 8~~ claim 2, wherein the teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~ uses a bridge ~~(212)~~ which interfaces with the telephone network ~~(216)~~ that interprets set up and control commands relating to a teleconference.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the teleconference server allows the system to utilise different network interfaces ~~(238, 240, 242)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 2 to 10~~ claim 2, wherein the teleconference server ~~(210)~~ includes an interface ~~(232)~~ allowing an instant

messaging client application ~~(202)~~ to set up and control a teleconference.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 11~~ claim 2, wherein the teleconference server ~~(210)~~ includes a telephone profile service ~~(230)~~ for retrieving and storing telephone profiles, and a teleconference profile service ~~(234)~~ for managing teleconference profiles including policy information, pin numbers and port allowances.

13. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein one of the instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ is a moderator of the teleconference and has a graphical user interface ~~(400, 600)~~ including control input means ~~(605, 606, 607, 603, 604)~~ for controlling the teleconference.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 13~~ claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface ~~(400)~~ includes means for providing a telephone number at

~~(501, 512)~~ which a participant can be connected for the teleconference.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in which a plurality of users each with an instant messaging client application ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicate in real time by instant messages via a computer network ~~(206)~~ and can be simultaneously connected by an n-way teleconference via a telephone network ~~(216)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the method includes: a plurality of instant messaging applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicating by instant messages via an instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ on a computer network ~~(206)~~; and establishing n-way telephone connections via a telephone network ~~(216)~~ using a teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~ on the computer network ~~(206)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 ~~or claim 16~~, wherein a user of an instant messaging client application ~~(202)~~ sets up and controls a teleconference by

instant messaging communication with a teleconference server
~~(210)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17,
wherein the user initiating the teleconference sends an
instant message in the form of an invitation ~~(510)~~ to
proposed participants of the teleconference.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 15 to 18~~ claim 15, wherein non-users of instant
messaging applications can also participate in the n-way
teleconference by dialling in themselves or being dialled in
~~(612)~~ by another participant.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 16 to 19~~ claim 16, wherein the teleconference server
~~(210)~~ notifies the instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ of the
status of telephone connections.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 15 to 20~~ claim 15, wherein the method includes
providing graphical user interfaces ~~(400, 600)~~ for the
instant messaging client applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~
including displaying in real time details of participants of
an n-way teleconference and the status of telephone
connections of the participants.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21,
wherein the method includes activating an indication ~~(608)~~
in the graphical user interface ~~(600)~~ of a participant who
is talking at a given time in the teleconference, in
response to a notification sent from the teleconference
server ~~(210)~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 ~~or~~
~~claim 22~~, wherein the method includes a user inputting a
telephone number ~~(501, 512)~~ in the graphical user interface
at which they can be contacted for a proposed
teleconference.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for performing the steps of: providing an instant messaging client application ~~(202)~~ for communicating with other instant messaging client applications ~~(207, 208, 209)~~ by instant messages delivered via an instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ on a computer network ~~(206)~~; providing an extension to the instant messaging client application ~~(202)~~ for enabling teleconferencing using a teleconferencing server ~~(210)~~ on the computer network ~~(206)~~ enabling n-way telephone connections via the telephone network ~~(216)~~.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for performing the steps of: providing a plurality of instant messaging applications ~~(202, 207, 208, 209)~~ communicating by instant messages via an instant messaging server ~~(204)~~ on a computer network ~~(206)~~; and establishing n-way telephone connections via a

telephone network ~~(216)~~ using a teleconferencing server
~~(210)~~ on the computer network ~~(206)~~.